

## REMARKS

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Altman (US 4,453,458) in view of Bringham (US 561,860). Applicant amends claims 1 and 7, and Applicant cancels claims 5 and 6. All remaining pending claims should now be allowable.

Altman comprises a large, automated food processing apparatus for use in the mass preparation of food. *See* Altman fig. 1; col. 1, lines 5-61. In contrast, Applicant's apparatus comprises a hand-held, portable stirrer with a flat base functioning to allow the stirrer to stand on a flat surface. Applicant's specification, p. 3, lines 11-13; p. 6, lines 21-22.

Altman's apparatus does not comprise a means to manually (without the use of a tool) interchange different coring knives. In contrast, Applicant's apparatus comprises a plurality of different sized coring knives that a user may easily interchange without the use of tool. Applicant's specification, p. 6, lines 2-6; lines 22-23.

Altman's apparatus comprises a coring knife with a distal end having pointed piercing point. *See* Altman, figs. 4-5 and 8-9. In contrast, Applicant's coring knife comprises a distal end having a narrow, rounded center portion tapering to wider edges. Applicant's specification, p. 7, lines 18-20; fig. 6.

Bringham comprises a knife for slitting leather. Bringham does not suggest using his apparatus in the preparation of food. Bringham's knife comprises a blade with a pointed tip, Bringham, fig. 1, as opposed to Applicant's coring knife which has a piercing point comprising a narrow, rounded center portion.

In summary, Altman comprises a large piece of food processing machinery without manually interchangeable coring knives. Altman's coring knife and Bringham's leather knife comprise pointed distal ends as opposed to Applicant's rounded distal end. Therefore, neither

Altman, Bringham, nor a combination of the two suggest Applicant's hand-held stirrer as presently claimed.

Applicant respectfully requests that the above amendment be entered and that the Examiner pass the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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